

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Carol C. Lam***

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***For Immediate Release***

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - February 15, 2007

The U.S. Department of Justice announced today the appointment of Karen P. Hewitt, currently the Executive Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of California, to be the Interim United States Attorney. She succeeds United States Attorney Carol C. Lam, who leaves the office today. Ms. Hewitt will serve on an interim basis until a United States Attorney is nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

Ms. Hewitt has served as an attorney in the Justice Department since 1992. Upon joining the Department, Ms. Hewitt was assigned to the Civil Division, Constitutional and Specialized Torts Section, in Washington, D.C., where she litigated civil cases on behalf of the United States. In 2000, Ms. Hewitt became an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the United States Attorney's Office in the Southern District of California. As an Assistant U.S. Attorney, Ms. Hewitt has represented the United States, its agencies, and individual law enforcement officers in complex civil actions, involving Constitutional claims, Immigration, Torts, Medical Malpractice and Employment Discrimination. From 2003 to 2006, she served as the Deputy Chief of the

Civil Division and also supervised the Office's Affirmative Civil Fraud Unit, which handles prosecution of Defense Procurement Fraud and Health Care Fraud. In January 2006, Ms. Hewitt was selected by U.S. Attorney Carol C. Lam to serve as the Executive Assistant United States Attorney. In that position as the third-in-command, Ms. Hewitt was responsible for overall supervision of approximately 110 Assistant U.S. Attorneys and 120 Support Staff, including criminal and civil case management, administration, budget, hiring, personnel and ethics.

Ms. Hewitt received her undergraduate degree in 1986 from the University of California, Berkeley, and her law degree in 1989 from the University of San Diego, School of Law. Ms. Hewitt was raised in San Diego County and is a graduate of Valhalla High School. Before joining the Justice Department, Ms. Hewitt was an attorney with the former San Diego law firm of McInnis, Fitzgerald, Rees, Sharkey and McIntyre from 1989 to 1992.

United States Attorney Lam said, "Karen brought energy and insight into her job as Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney, where she carried a wide range of responsibilities. She has excelled as a litigator and a manager, and I have no doubt that she will have great success as interim U.S. Attorney."

Ms. Lam was appointed by President George W. Bush to the position of United States Attorney in September, 2002. She will join QUALCOMM Incorporated in San Diego as Senior Vice President and Legal Counsel on February 26, 2007.